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RECORD OF DECISION
IN THE MATTER OF
CHARLES DOUCETTE
W-51582

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Parole Eligibility

DATE OF HEARING: October 24, 2006

DATE OF DECISION: December 11, 2006

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Daniel Dewey, Doris Dottridge, Candace Kochin, Thomas Merigan, Deborah McDonagh, Maureen Walsh.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Reserve 1/30/07 to a LTRP [long term residential program].

Special Conditions: Waive work for program. Supervise for drugs; testing required. Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing required. Report to assigned MA parole office on day of release. No contact with victim's family. Must complete long term residential treatment program. Alcoholics Anonymous at least 3 times per week.

On October 24, 2006, Charles Doucette appeared before the Massachusetts Parole Board for an Initial Hearing on a Second Degree Life sentence for the murder of Raymond Bufalino. At the hearing, the Board also addressed concurrently imposed Life sentences for unrelated offenses to the murder of Mr. Bufalino. Charles Doucette received concurrent Life sentences for the following; Armed Robbery, Armed Assault in a Dwelling, and Stealing.

He also is serving companion offenses of Breaking and Entering in the Daytime, two counts (9 – 10 years); Armed Robbery (10 – 15 years); Assault by Means of Dangerous Weapon (9 – 10 years); and Armed Assault in a Dwelling (10 – 15 years).

The Board notes that on all of the above sentences, except the Life sentences, Charles Doucette has received a Certificate of Discharge.

The facts of the murder case are as follows: The victim of the offense, Raymond Bufalino, worked for Mr. Doucette's father. He claimed he was injured at work and was going to file a workers compensation claim against Mr. Doucette's father's business. Charles Doucette met with Mr. Bufalino and attempted to convince him to sign a release that would absolve his father of any liability. The victim refused to sign the release form. Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Doucette approached Mr. Bufalino, who was sitting in his vehicle. The men began to argue and Mr. Doucette pulled out his revolver. The argument ended with the victim being shot in the head. Raymond Bufalino died from the gun shot wounds.

The facts of the home invasion charges are as follows: While out on bail for the murder of Mr. Bufalino, Charles Doucette committed two separate home invasions. The first on September 16, 1991, in Lynnfield and the second was in Peabody on October 29, 1991. In both incidents, Mr. Doucette and his co-defendant were armed. They assaulted and bound their victims and stole cash and valuables from the homes.

Since his incarceration, Charles Doucette has been involved in a variety of rehabilitation programs to help prepare him for a successful re-entry. He acknowledged that he has experienced problems with anger, but addressed those issues by participating in a variety of programs which explore alternatives to violence. Mr. Doucette is currently a Cadre at Bridgewater State Hospital and his overall evaluations have been positive.

It appears that he has involved himself in all of the rehabilitation programs that are available to him. The Board notes that Mr. Doucette applied for the Correctional Recovery Academy in 2005, but he was deemed ineligible due to a low score on the Recidivism and Needs Assessment. Charles Doucette has strong family and community support and is asking to be paroled to a Transitional Living Facility. The Board believes that Mr. Doucette has a strong parole plan, and his release at this time is not detrimental to the welfare of society.

Dissent:

Denied. Review in 4 years.

The execution style murder of Mr. Raymond Bufalino was particularly heinous. The victim was shot execution style with two shots to the mouth and right ear. Mr. Doucette still minimizes his direct role when questioned about the murder by stating the victim "raised his arm and then frustration overrode common sense".

Mr. Doucette's criminal behavior while on bail is particularly disturbing. Mr. Doucette admits that his motive for committing the home invasions was for money to pay for his defense lawyer.

Although Mr. Doucette has completed numerous programs, he has never participated in any substance abuse programs. His criminal record includes three OUI convictions and an admission of selling and using cocaine. In 2005, Mr. Doucette received a disciplinary report for his part in a fight.

While Mr. Doucette has community support, it is the minority opinion of the Parole Board that his release is not compatible with the welfare of society at this time.

Board Member 1: Concur.
Board Member 2: Concur.
Board Member 3: Concur.
Board Member 4: Concur.
Board Member 5: Denied. [Review in] 4 years.
Board Member 6: Denied. [Review in] 4 years.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.

Donald V. Lippert
Executive Director

12/18/06
Date